

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 MC-02 ACDA-07 OMB-01 EB-07 TRSE-00 OES-07
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FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3572
INFO AMEMBASSY DACCA
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU
AMCONSUL BOMBAY
AMCONSUL CALCUTTA
AMCONSUL MADRAS

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EO 11652: NA
TAGS: PFOR, MARR, IN, PK, US
SUBJ: VAJPAYEE ON ARMS TO PAKISTAN AND OTHER FOREIGN
POLICY ISSUES

1. DURING A DAY-LONG SESSION MAY 21 WITH THE CONSULTATIVE
COMMITTEE OF PARLIAMENT ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS, MINISTER
VAJPAYEE REPORTEDLY SAID THAT HE HOPED RELATIONS WITH
THE UNITED STATES WOULD IMPROVE BUT POINTED OUT THAT
THERE WERE SOME MAJOR UNSETTLED PROBLEMS SUCH AS THE
SUPPLY OF ENRICHED URANIUM FOR TARAPUR AND THE CONTINUING
SUPPLY OF ARMS TO PAKISTAN. ACCORDING TO PRESS ACCOUNTS,
VAJPAYEE ALSO SAID THAT INDO-SOVIET RELATIONS HAD PRE-
CEDED THE TREATY OF PEACE AND FRIENDSHIP, AND THE RECENT
VISIT OF GROMYKO HAD GONE OFF IN A VERY FRIENDLY AND BUS-
INESS-LIKE MANNER. THE RECENT RESUMPTION OF TRADE
WITH CHINA WAS DESCRIBED BY VAJPAYEE AS A MODEST
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BEGINNING, BUT SOME BASIC QUESTIONS IN THE RELATION
REMAIN WHICH INDIA WOULD WISH TO RESOLVE WITH FULL
REGARD TO ITS HONOR AND DIGNITY AND PREVIOUS COMMITMENTS
AND UNDERTAKINGS.

2. VAJPAYEE IS REPORTED TO HAVE SAID THAT THE KEY NOTE
OF THE GOVERNMENT'S FOREIGN POLICY WAS "BENEFICIAL

BILATERALISM." INDIA, HE SAID, HAD NO DESIRE TO INTERFERE IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF ANY COUNTRY BUT WOULD LIKE TO SEE PEACE-LOVING AND STABLE COUNTRIES AS ITS NEIGHBORS, AND STRENGTHENED RELATIONS WITH ALL COUNTRIES ON THE BASIS OF EQUALITY AND RECIPROCITY.

3. IN ITS VERSION OF THE SESSION, THE PRO-CONGRESS "NATIONAL HERALD" SAID THAT THE FARAKKA BARRAGE AND NEPAL WERE ALSO DISCUSSED. ACCORDING TO THE HERALD, THE MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE "FORCEFULLY" RAISED THE "DIVERSION OF THE GANGA WATERS TO BANGLADESH" IN THE CONTEXT OF INDIA'S LONG-TERM NEEDS FOR WATER NOT ONLY AT CALCUTTA PORT BUT IN THE STATES OF UTTAR PRADESH AND BIHAR. VAJPAYSE REPORTEDLY SAID THAT ANY AGREEMENT WITH BANGLADESH WOULD TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE LEGITIMATE NEEDS OF THE COUNTRY. IN REPLY TO A DISCUSSION OF THE DETENTION OF FORMER NEPALI PM KOIRALA, VAJPAYEE REPORTEDLY SAID THAT IT WAS A SENSITIVE SUBJECT AND INDIA COULD NOT INTERFERE IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF ANOTHER COUNTRY.

4. COMMENT. IF THE PRESS REPORTS ARE CORRECT, VAJPAYEE'S SINGLING OUT OF "CONTINUING SUPPLY OF ARMS" TO PAKISTAN AS A "MAJOR UNSETTLED PROBLEM" OF INDO-US RELATIONS ONCE AGAIN DEMONSTRATES THE SENSITIVITY OF THE NEW GOVERNMENT TO THE ISSUE, IN PART A REFLECTION OF ITS LACK OF EXPERIENCE IN DEALING WITH THE USG'S RESTRAINED AND ROUTINIZED IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ARMS SUPPLY POLICY ADOPTED IN FEBRUARY 1975.

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5. PRESS PUBLICITY MAY CONTRIBUTE TO THIS POLITICAL SENSITIVITY. NEWSPAPERS MAY 21 CARRIED THE AP STORY ON THE TRANSFER OF DESTROYERS TO PAKISTAN (STATE 116996). IN ANOTHER STORY THE SAME DAY PRINCIPALLY ON DIEGO GARCIA CONSTRUCTION, THE "TIMES OF INDIA" CORRESPONDENT IN WASHINGTON STATED THAT THE DESTROYERS WERE HANDED OVER TO THE PAKISTANIS IN SEATTLE "ON THE VERY DAY" J.P. NARAYAN ARRIVED THERE FOR MEDICAL TREATMENT. THE CORRESPONDENT WROTE THAT PRESIDENT CARTER'S TELEGRAM OF WELCOME TO UP "THUS SEEMS SOMEWHAT CONTRIVED WHEN, ON THE ONE HAND, HIS ADMINISTRATION HAS SECRETIVELY (SIC) LET PAKISTAN HAVE TWO DESTROYERS." THE ISSUE OF ARMS SUPPLY TO PAKISTAN ALSO INTRUDED INTO AN OTHERWISE EFFUSIVE "HINDUSTAN TIMES" MAY 20 ACCOUNT OF THE WARM EXCHANGE OF LETTERS BETWEEN PM DESAI AND PRESIDENT CARTER (SEPTTEL). THE "HINDUSTAN TIMES" CORRESPONDENT SAID THAT "TWO DARK CLOUDS" ON THE HORIZON OF IMPROVING INDO-US RELATIONS WERE THE DISCORDANT NOTE OF TWO DESTROYERS ENROUTE TO PAKISTAN AND THE "SECOND SOUR NOTE" OF CONGRESSIONAL

ALLOCATION OF FUNDS FOR DIEGO GARCIA.
GOHEEN

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Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 23-May-1977 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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